



Get a Glimpse of the Infinite at the Montréal Planetarium March 28 to April 4, 2009

Montréal, March 20, 2009 – The Planetarium is inviting everyone to take part in free activities during its Astronomy Week, from March 28 to April 4. Come to the Planetarium for the worldwide 100 hours of astronomy, and observe the starry sky live from Mont Mégantic. There will be “enlightening” lectures, too, followed by fascinating stargazing sessions hosted by professional astronomers and enthusiastic amateurs who will be happy to help you interpret what you are seeing in the sky. You can experience your own “Galileo moment”!

- **Earth Hour lecture: *Causes et conséquences de la pollution lumineuse***
Saturday, March 28, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., followed by a stargazing session

As part of **Earth Hour**, when people all over the world are invited to turn off their lights for one hour (from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Montréal) to show their support for efforts to fight climate change, this “enlightening” lecture is very appropriate. We want to limit light pollution so that it’s easier to see the stars, obviously. But there are lots of other positive effects, as well: saving energy, protecting ecosystems, improving quality of life and reducing the impact on human health, while continuing to keep our nighttimes safe.

Speaker: Chloé Legris

Named *Scientist of the year 2007* by Radio-Canada, the graduate in mechanical engineering from the Université de Sherbrooke headed the anti-light pollution project at the Mont-Mégantic ASTROLab. Thanks to her, the region became the first International Dark Sky Reserve recognized by UNESCO!

- **Lecture: *Sursauts de formation stellaire, de la nébuleuse d’Orion au Big bang***
Thursday, April 2, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by a stargazing session

You can observe the superb Orion Nebula, the birthplace of hundreds of young stars and a wonderful example of how the stars making up the Milky Way are formed. With the help of superb images taken by telescopes on Earth and in space, learn how stars are born, tracing the story from today all the way back to when the Universe first appeared.

Speaker: Laurent Drissen, PhD

Director of the Université Laval astrophysics research group and holder of the Canada Research Chair on Massive Stars and Hyperspectral Imaging, Mr. Drissen is interested in the influence of massive stars on their environments and in building innovative astronomical instruments. In fact, he collaborated with NASA on the Hubble space telescope and is now part of the scientific team working on the UVIT space telescope, a joint project between the Canadian and Indian space agencies.

- **Special event: *100 Hours of Astronomy***

Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4, 9:30 p.m. to midnight

This special event will be celebrated in over 130 countries, and the Planetarium doesn’t intend to miss out! During this planetary event you can enjoy the unique experience of remote stargazing, observing the starry sky live from the Mont Mégantic observatory. Visitors will be able to virtually look through the powerful telescope and talk with experts from the two institutions.

In 2009, the Montréal Planetarium is celebrating **the International Year of Astronomy** with a series of interactive, hands-on activities marking the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of a telescope. The Planetarium team is also sharing its enthusiasm for the starry sky with the public, through stargazing sessions and special activities held in green spaces and at events around Montréal throughout the year. These are all great opportunities for members of the public to discover the joys of astronomy and experience their own "Galileo moments"!

ASTRONOMY WEEK, MARCH 28 TO APRIL 4, 2009

Causes et conséquences de la pollution lumineuse

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100 Hours of Astronomy

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at the

Montréal Planetarium

1000, rue Saint-Jacques, Montréal (Bonaventure metro station)

514 872-4530

Free admission

Complete schedule for the International Year of Astronomy: www.museumsnature.ca

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